

# THE C4 NEWSLETTER

*Colonial Coin Collectors Club*

*Wood's Coinage "3"*



*Spring 2002*

*Volume 10 Number 1*

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**The C4 Newsletter**    Volume 10 Number 1

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**The Colonial Coin Collectors Club, Inc.**

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## ***Classified Ads***

Ads for this newsletter can be purchased as follows:

	1 issue	2 issues	3 issues	Copy size
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If you want to include a photo with your ad at an additional \$10. Black and white photo needed, size can be adjusted to fit. Please send check with your ad. We can accept camera ready copy or any Microsoft Word compatible computer file.

All members also have the right to include a free classified ad in the newsletter of up to 13 lines.



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## ***President's Message***

By Ray Williams

As Angel's request for another "President's Message" appeared on my email, I find myself thinking about what makes C4 different from all the other specialty numismatic organizations. I recall the first time I read Penny Whimsy, and how it instilled the desire to collect Large Cents and the love of that area of the hobby. I find I have that same fun and pleasure collecting and studying colonial coins, but to a much more intense level. Reading Dickeson and

Crosby, I don't find the appeal to human nature to pursue colonials as I found for Large Cents with Sheldon.

So what is it that motivates my passion for collecting and studying colonials? First is the coins themselves... the various designs all tell different stories. The dies reflect the craftsmanship of the times. The naked-eye varieties tell an interesting story. Second is the historical relevance of the coins: people, places and events responsible for their existence. Third is the satisfaction and fun of doing research. As much as is known about these coins, there's probably as much still to be discovered. Fourth is all of you - collectors that share their coins and knowledge. C4 is a gathering of collectors of like interest, all having an appreciation of each other's coins and passion. Long live C4!

I hope to see a lot of you at EAC in Las Vegas. Bring a coin or two to share with others.

Have FUN.



## ***Election of C4 Officers in 2002***

There is only one position that is being contested this year, being the only one for which nominations were received.

Region 7 members have a decision to make for their Region representative between incumbent Rob Retz and new nominee Buell Ish. Both have been very active in C4 and would be good for the job. Region t members please submit your votes to Frank Steimle or me prior to June 30<sup>th</sup>.



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***Dues Notice***

As usual for this time of year, it is time to start thinking of dues. Many of you have already sent yours, so check the address label for the number next to your name. If it says 02 or higher you are paid up for this year. If it says 01, you have to pay your dues between now and September. Only members who have not paid by September will receive individual dues notices. Thanks.



### ***C4 Library News***

By Leo J. Shane

An updated list of all the library holdings is contained elsewhere in this issue. We now have a complete set of all Colonial News Letter issues (1 though 118) available for loan. Thank you ! Jim Spilman, Gary Trudgen, Phil Mossman and Tarnisha Smart (ANS) for your help in filling in the missing issues.

Also, thanks to John Kraljevich for getting us a copy of the Bowers auction catalog of the Phillip Flannagan Collection. This is not available for loan.

And finally, thank you to E.F.Schwam and Ray Williams for their donations to help fill out the collection of C4 Newsletter issues. At this time we only need the following issues to have a complete set so check your libraries for a duplicate copy.

C4 Newsletters: Vol 5 No. 2 Summer 1997  
Vol 5 No. 3 Fall 1997  
Vol 6 No. 2 Summer 1998

Suggestions for additions to the library are always appreciated. Think about what you collect and make your suggestions as to what you feel would be a good book to start with for other members.



Please consider donating books, auction catalogs, etc. to the library. Remember, those who are learning about colonials now are those who will be buying your coins later. My E Mail is

[Leo.J.Shane@honeywell.com](mailto:Leo.J.Shane@honeywell.com) or write to me at [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]



## ***C4 Library Contents***

By Leo J. Shane

Below is a listing of items we have in the C4 Library. To borrow an item, please send a check payable to Leo Shane 1130 Woods Lane, Warminster Pa. 18974. Please include your address and an E mail and/or phone number in case I need to contact you. All data is strictly confidential. The loan period is 30 days after you receive the book (Honor System). You are responsible for the safe and timely return of the book to the library. I have estimated the cost of postage for each item. This should be a break even situation. I will adjust it if it gets too much one way or the other. Book rate will take about one week after I put it in the mail. First class is approximately 2 days.

I will do my best to get your requests out in a timely fashion. If you are desperate for something, please E mail me as I check this frequently. Any suggestions and comments are appreciated. My E mail is [LEO.J.SHANE@honeywell.com](mailto:LEO.J.SHANE@honeywell.com)

Leo Shane

### ***\$3 Book Rate / \$6 First Class Postage Each Item:***

Adams, John W., United States Numismatic Literature Volume 1,  
19<sup>th</sup> Century Auction Catalogs, Mission Viejo CA, 1982

Adams, John W., United States Numismatic Literature Volume 2,  
20<sup>th</sup> Century Auction Catalogs, Crestline CA, 1990

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Crosby, Sylvester S., *The Early Coins of America*, Lawrence MA, 1974

Binder of Material Presented at The Third NJ Copper Symposium, Held in conjunction with the First Annual C4 Convention – 20 October 1995, (Includes Walter Breen's 1955 Unpublished Manuscript on NJs as interpreted by Ray Williams)

**\$2 Book Rate / \$4 First Class Postage Each Item:**

American Numismatic Society, *Coinage of the American Confederation Period* – edited by Philip Mossman, *Coinage of the Americas Conference at the American Numismatic Society*, New York Oct 28 1995

Betts, Wyllys C., *American Colonial History Illustrated By Contemporary Medals*, Boston MA, 1972

Clarke, Herman Fredrick, John Hull A Builder Of The Bay Colony, Wolfeboro NH, 1993

Newman, Eric P. and Richard G. Doty, *Studies On Money In Early America*, New York NY, 1976

Vlack, Robert A., *Early American Coins*, Johnson City NY, 1965

VHS Movie: *Collecting Colonial Coins*, Mary Sauvain, 1994 Long Beach Expo Educational Seminar

VHS Movie: *Money – History In Your Hands*, James Earl Jones, 1995 ANA / PNG Production

VHS Movie: *New Jersey, Connecticut, Vermont, Massachusetts*, Educational Forum 1996 Second Annual C4 Convention

VHS Movie: *Collecting Colonials – Dan Freidus, Grading Colonials – Bobby Martin*, Educational Forum 1997 Third Annual C4 Convention

VHS Movie: New Jersey Symposium, Educational Forum 1997  
Third Annual C4 Convention

VHS Movie: Machin Mills, Vermont, Massachusetts Silver,  
Massachusetts Copper, Connecticut, Educational Forum 1997 Third  
Annual C4 Convention

VHS Movie: The Stepney Hoard Of Connecticut Coppers – Forty  
Eight Years After The Fact – Dr. Philip Mossman, Inaugural  
Groves Forum – ANS, 18 April 1998

**\$2 Book Rate / \$4 First Class Postage For 1 or 2 Items:**

Connecticut Historical Society – Tercentenary Celebration,  
Connecticut Bills of Credit and Coins 1709-1788, Hartford CT,  
1935

Greenword, Malachy, A Journey Through The Monkalokian Rain  
Forests In Search Of The Spiney Fubbaduck, (1993 Study Of Regal  
Imitations, Lightweight Tokens and Various Medalllets Circulated In  
The Later Part Of The 18<sup>th</sup> Century)

Newman, Eric P., Coinage For Colonial Virginia, New York NY,  
1956

Newman, Eric P., The Secret Of The Good Samaritan Shilling, New  
York NY, 1959

Auction Catalog: Pine Tree Auction Co., EAC Sale Cataloged by  
Walter Breen, (Includes The Connecticut Collection), 15 January  
1975, Albertson NY

Auction Catalog: Mayflower Coin Auctions, Mr. C.H. Stearns  
Collection Of Colonial US And Canadian Coins, 2-3 December  
1966, Boston MA

Auction Catalog: First Annual C4 Convention Sale – The John

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Griffie Collection,

21 October 1995, Pensauken NJ

Auction Catalog: Second Annual C4 Convention Sale – The Scott Barnes Collection,

12 October 1996, Pensauken NJ

Auction Catalog: Third Annual C4 Convention Sale,

8 November 1997, Boston MA

Auction Catalog: Fourth Annual C4 Convention Sale,

21 November 1998, Boston MA

Auction Catalog: Fifth Annual C4 Convention Sale,

6 November 1999, Boston MA

Auction Catalog: Sixth Annual C4 Convention Sale – The Albany Collection of Machin Mills Coinage, 18 November 2000, Boston MA

Auction Catalog: Seventh Annual C4 Convention Sale – The Bud Bibbins Collection of Vermont Coppers, 10 November 2001, Boston MA

Auction Catalog: Bowers and Merena Galleries – The Collections of Phillip Flannagan, 29 November – 1 December 2001, Baltimore MD

Price List: Colonial And Continental Currency, Denly's Of Boston, 1994, Boston MA

Colonial Newsletter: Issues #1 (Oct 1960) to #118(Dec 2001)

Note: Issues #1 to #8 are very short and count as 1 item for postage purposes, all others are 1 issue 1 item)

C4 Newsletter: The Following Issues are in the Library and available for loan

Vol 1 No. 1 August 1993

Vol 1 No. 2 December 1993

Vol 2 No. 1 March 1994  
Vol 2 No. 2 June 1994  
Vol 2 No. 3 September 1994  
Vol 2 No. 4 Christmas 1994  
Vol 3 No. 1 March 1995  
Vol 3 No. 2 Summer 1995  
Vol 3 No. 3 Fall 1995  
Vol 3 No. 4 Winter 1996  
Vol 4 No. 1 Spring 1996  
Vol 4 No. 2 Fall 1996  
Vol 4 No. 3 Winter 1997  
Vol 5 No. 1 Spring 1997  
Vol 5 No. 2 Summer 1997 (Do not have any copies)  
Vol 5 No. 3 Fall 1997 (Do not have any copies)  
Vol 5 No. 4 Winter 1997  
Vol 6 No. 1 Spring 1998  
Vol 6 No. 2 Summer 1998 (Do not have any copies)  
Vol 6 No. 3 Fall 1998  
Vol 6 No. 4 Winter 1998  
Vol 7 No. 1 Spring 1999  
Vol 7 No. 2 Summer 1999  
Vol 7 No. 3 Fall 1999  
Vol 7 No. 4 Winter 1999  
Vol 8 No. 1 Spring 2000  
Vol 8 No. 2 Summer 2000  
Vol 8 No. 3 Fall 2000  
Vol 8 No. 4 Winter 2000  
Vol 9 No. 1 Spring 2001  
Vol 9 No. 2 Summer 2001  
Vol 9 No. 3 Fall 2001  
Vol 9 No. 4 Winter 2001



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## ***C4 Items for Sale***

### **The Copper Coins of Vermont**

#### **And Those Bearing The Vermont Name**

by Tony Carlotto

Only 10 copies left!

Regular edition price \$50 (add \$3 for shipping)

Send orders to:

**Ray Williams**



### **C4 Convention Items for Sale**

***Hardbound Scott Barnes Catalogs \$50***

***Hardbound Fifth C4 Convention Catalogues \$50/ea.***

***Call or write Ray Williams if you are interested for availability.***

Add \$3 postage and handling. All will be sent uninsured at buyer's risk. If you want insurance, add an appropriate amount. Please forward your check to Ray, payable to C4.

### **The Richard Picker Collection Lot Envelopes**

Stack's has provided C4 with Picker's own customized envelopes from his collection sold in October 1984. They are available from the club for \$5 each if you can show adequate proof that you own the coin. This \$5 donation is for the club's treasury, thanks to Stack's. All unsold envelopes will be returned to Stack's. If you own any of these coins and would like to own the envelope, contact Ray Williams.

## The Fugio plates are sold out!



## *Letter to the Editor*

### **Commentaries on Auction descriptions and collecting in general:**

As a new C-4 member and Vermont collector I eagerly awaited the arrival of my first auction catalog, containing the Bibbins Collection. Having met Bud for the first time at the Taylor auction and at subsequent auctions in NYC, I had known the scope of his collection. I believe that Tom Rinaldo did a good job in describing the coins, but it left an overall impression that was disturbing. When a collection is offered for auction it should be a commemoration. The introduction to the collection celebrates the collector and his achievements. The lot analysis is used for a critique of the coin. I ended up feeling that Tom was apologizing for the collection being offered. I was not alone as others agreed with me. Statements such as: "Further, most of the coins in this collection are at least highly pleasing, and in some cases remarkable, while some others might be closer to average." was not necessary. And "While they may be in low grade, this collection contains several of the classic rarities in the Vermont series." Holy cow, we are talking about coins that at present have fewer than 30 known extant examples each. To own one is a great joy and privilege, forget grade, you never know when the next opportunity will come along.

I then viewed the plates and indeed many of the coins did not look very appealing. Fortunately, with more than a few years experience in collecting Vermont's, I have observed that as a general rule there are Vermont's that should not be enlarged. I feel that faults are exaggerated and the viewer does not get an accurate sense of how the coin will appear in his collection. When I actually viewed the coins I found them to be much nicer than their plates. Tom gave accurate verbal descriptions, so there was no need to have enlarged pictures that diminish the value of the coin. I thought Bud should be

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proud of his collection and I can easily see why it gave him great satisfaction over the years. As Tom wrote, Bud "truly loved his coins."

My negative reaction to this catalogue, is in part a long, strong feeling that coin collecting has taken a wrong turn. I sensed this years ago when we had double digit inflation and interest rates. Coins became king and the mantra was "MS 65". Dealers and collectors sang praise to the almighty slabbed coin and an MS grade. (Before I continue I would like to acknowledge that coins have been collected for condition, centuries before the hysteria of the last quarter of the 20th century. I see nothing wrong with it! However, I am disturbed when I see it carried to excess.) Years ago, in letters to "Coin World", I had expressed the hope that colonials would escape this excessive preoccupation with condition. In the coin collecting world, in general, large numbers of people are collectors, but few are numismatists. In the colonial field I felt that my colonial friends were numismatists and collectors. Many realized that there was more to colonials than their grade.

I have only two great interests in coins and one is Vermont's. I have been relatively inactive, because there have been very few offered for sale. I finally attended our show in Boston and met old friends whom I hadn't seen in years. It was disheartening to have some tell me that we could not afford to assemble our collections today, because the prices are so high. I met a 4-C member who was selling his collection. I asked why and again the answer was, "I can't afford to collect them."

Why is this the case? In some instances, it might be the old law of supply and demand, especially when it comes to a rare specimen in choice condition. I suspect, however, that the preoccupation with condition in general, is the major culprit. In the recent Bowers Hinkley sale a Ryder 30 sold for \$63,250. This had to be a record price for a Vermont coin. It was scarce and magnificent. Should I stop collecting because of this or should I have bought the stigmatized "low grade" Bibbins Ryder 30 at \$3,220?? I looked at the prices realized from the Bibbins and Hinkley sales and made an



interesting observation. Really nice Vermont's were selling for very attractive, affordable prices. One does not have to stop collecting coins, or take out a second mortgage because coins are too expensive! There are many avenues open to assemble a representative collection. I believe that this is a truism for the whole colonial field.

I have always felt that coin collecting should be fun. There are very few people who can afford to be a Condition Census collector. I know that you don't have to have the very best to build an enjoyable and presentable collection. Bud Bibbins loved his Vermont's and they gave him great pleasure. This is what collecting is all about. Can you collect Vermont's without a second mortgage? I know you can and some possible suggestions are: collect different die states of the same coin, lets take a Ryder 25- early die state, overstruck, and shattered dies (read Bressett- "Studies on Money in Early America"). How about the landscapes in different states of die disintegration? I have a set of the Ryder 4 in 3 stages of die failure. The last stage would probably embarrass a cataloguer, but this is Vermont history, like it or not. I have a Ryder 9 that would make the moon blush with envy. Flawed planchets are part of Vermont coinage and most aren't pretty, but they can be an integral part of every collection. Of course the end result is your choice and what message you want your collection to convey.

I hope that we do not emulate collectors of 20th Century US coins. Vermont's have their own unique history and each coin is a part of that story. Study and enjoy them; if you only select a coin because of its perfection you have missed the true essence of Vermont coinage. If only one Vermont collection could be saved for posterity, would you want it to be a CC collection, or one that presented an accurate history of Vermont coinage, warts and all? Hey, I collect Vermont's because they are fun, interesting, and of course part of our nations great history. No apologies given!

Roy Bonjour



I collect Redbook type colonials and state coins in as lofty a condition as I can find. I have spent a lot of time on my own researching past famous auctions sales and records and trying to assemble a condition census list of all Redbook variety colonials.

If there are people in the club who have done research or who have a particular interest in assembling condition census lists of colonials, I would be very interested in talking to them.

Thanks.

John Agre

Editor's note: John can be reached at [JRAMSA@aol.com](mailto:JRAMSA@aol.com). If anyone wishes to send a written response, it can be routed through me.



## ***"Large 3" Versus "Small 3" in the Dates of Wood's Hibernia and Rosa Americana Coins***

By Sydney F. Martin

In chatting with several collectors at the last C4 convention about the Wood's Hibernia halfpence that were up for auction, it became clear that no one really knew what was meant by "large 3" (versus "small 3") as a descriptor of the reverse die type. Just to set the stage, Figure 1 provides a typical obverse for Wood's Hibernia halfpence and/or his Rosa Americana pence (note: these two denominations are the same size, and should be considered together).

This terminology was first used by Breen<sup>1</sup> in describing both Rosa Americana pence and Hibernia halfpence. In his encyclopedia, Rosa types 121 and 124 are described as having a "large 3," while type 122 is described as having a "small 3." Similarly, Hibernia types 154 and 157 are noted as having a "small 3," while type 155



Figure 1 -- Typical Obverse for Wood's Rosa Americana Pence and Hibernia Halfpence.



Figure 2 -- A "Large 3" Hibernia Reverse

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has a "large 3." He also used the large/small 3 terminology for the Hibernia 1723/2 varieties presented as his 152 and 153; however, the overdates must be treated separately.

After studying Breen's material in detail to determine exactly what he meant, I previously used the "large 3" and "small 3" terminology<sup>2</sup> to denote distinct reverse subtypes. Hopefully, I'll complete my book on Hibernias this year, in which I've continued to use the "large 3" and "small 3" distinctions. Ergo, it makes sense to explain the two.

Excluding the overdates, the "large 3" basically has a very broad horizontal stroke at the top of the numeral, while the "small 3" has only a very short horizontal stroke. Figures 2 and 3 show typical Hibernia reverses with large and small 3's, respectively; Figures 4 and 5 show close-ups of the dates of these two coins, clearly showing the differences. Rosa pence are completely analogous.



Figure 3 -- A "Small 3" Hibernia Reverse



Figure 4 -- "Large 3" Close-up



Figure 5 -- "Small 3" Close-up

That this definition is what Breen intended is supported by his note at Rosa Americana type 124: "1723 Penny. Stop after large 3. (defined as) Wide 3, long top forming narrow acute angle with diagonal." Interestingly, this is his only mention of the differences, leaving the reader to discern what the "small 3" is, and to translate it to the Hibernias. Not counting the overdate, I have categorized 16 different Hibernia 1723 *reverse*s that use a large 3 and 67 that use a small 3. Parenthetically, as of now, I know of 38 different *reverse-observe* combinations that use a large "3" and 136 *reverse-observe* combinations that use a small 3.

This suggests that the "small 3" reverse is the more common of the

two -- a fact borne out empirically. It is quite probable that the die manufacturer intended no difference; rather, the two 3's simply came from different number punches. I don't have the same data for Rosas, except to note that (1) there are several Rosa reverse varieties using each style 3 and (2) the "3" number punches are identical to those used with their Hibernia counterparts.

Now, let us reconsider the overdates. The 1723/2 Hibernia overdates are problematic. The definitions used above do not apply. The "large 3" and the "small 3" both have broad tops, but the absolute size of the two are different, both in height and width. Figures 6 and 7 show close-ups of large 3 and small 3 overdates, respectively.



Figure 6 -- "Large 3/2" Close-up



Figure 7 -- "Small 3/2" Close-up

For the overdate, I know of a single reverse with a large 3/2 and a single one with a small 3/2; with a single *reverse-obverse* combination with the 3/2 and only two *reverse-obverse* combinations with the small 3/2.

Hopefully, this discussion will lead to the consistent use of terms in cataloging and describing these interesting coins.

## ENDNOTES

<sup>1</sup>Breen, Walter, *Complete Encyclopedia of U.S. and Colonial Coins*; Doubleday, NY, NY, 1988; pp 26-29. [ISBN 0-385-14207-2]

<sup>2</sup>Martin, Sydney F., "Wood's Hibernia Halfpence: An Analysis & Categorization" *The Colonial Newsletter*, Vol 36, No. 1 (Jan 1996), pp 1593-1599.



## ***Van Voorhis & Coley: Silversmiths***

By: Marc Mayhugh

In addition to occasionally turning up a rare and exciting coin, the online auction company of Ebay can also be an excellent source of numismatic related items such as books, newspapers, documents and other articles. One such item, recently purchased by the author, is a silver teaspoon manufactured by the silversmith firm of Daniel Van Voorhis and William Coley of Vermont, and later, Machin's Mill coining fame.

The spoon is about five inches long, scrolled on the front, and monogrammed with the initials DSS on the handle. It has seen some wear and is a little banged up. Stamped on the backside of the spoon are the initials V&C inside a rectangle. The seller assures me that this mark was produced by the firm of Van Voorhis and Coley, and is quite rare, as silver goes. This he claims was due to the short duration of their partnership while both worked as mint masters in Vermont.

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Having decided to check out the seller's claim, I found that very little is actually written about Van Voorhis & Coley outside of Sylvester Crosby's coverage of the Machin's Mill indenture. For example, in the entire Colonial Newsletter index, Coley is only mentioned once, and this is a non-numismatic reference. This is quite odd considering that he is credited with cutting the dies for one of the most attractive of colonial coins, the Vermont Landscape, as well as one of the crudest, the Baby Head. Other references likewise turned up scant information. My curiosity now piqued, I set out to find out all that I could about the Van Voorhis and Coley tandem. In particular, I wanted to know if they were producing silverware while coining at Rupert. Fortunately, I live in an area with access to very good research facilities and was soon able to locate some data on the two coiners. For those who may be interested, it is printed below.

One of the earliest references pertaining to the establishment of a partnership between Van Voorhis and Coley is in Louise Belden's Marks of American Silversmiths. In this book, she refers to 1784-1785 advertisements of Van Voorhis in the New York Daily Advertiser for the firm of "Van Voorhis, Bayley [S.A.] and William Coley real Mfrs. in gold, silver and jewelry." (1) This time period sounds correct for the forming of the partnership since prior to this Van Voorhis was advertising in Philadelphia, on the west side of Front Street-6 doors down from the coffee house in 1782. (2) Later, he is advertising in the New Jersey Gazette as a goldsmith, operating out of Princeton, in January of 1783. (3) Coley also seems to be working alone in 1783, and has taken over the house at no. 15 Hanover Square and the jewelry business of James Bennett. (4)

The Belden book makes note of another important item in the Daily Advertiser of April 27, 1785 and this is the dissolution of the firm of Van Voorhis, Bayley, Coley & Cox. Interestingly enough, Cox is none other than Albion Cox of the future New Jersey coining operation. During this time period Van Voorhis & Coley were known to advertise that they "procured the best workmen from Europe." (5) Perhaps this was in reference to Cox. A couple of other names come to mind also. The break-up of the above



business venture is corroborated in New York City Mayor's Court records.(6)

From this point, up until the end of the Confederation coining period, the team of Van Voorhis and Coley were engaged in numerous coining activities, while at other times, carrying on in the silver business. Exactly what they were doing, and where it took place, however, is rather confusing. Gary Trudgen notes that shortly after the dissolution of the above partnership, they went to Vermont and joined up with Reuben Harmon.(7) Ken Bressett says they continued their business in New York until sometime in 1786 before moving to Vermont. He further suggests that the plough-type Vermonts were produced in New York.(8) From Stephen Ensko's book on silvermarks it is noted of the firm of Van Voorhis & Coley, "working in New York, Hanover Square, 1786." The same source goes on to state in a short biography that Van Voorhis, "Located in NY, 1785 and in partnership with William Coley. Working at 72 Hanover Square, 1787; Queen Street in 1789."(9) The Belden book claims that V&C are listed in New York directories for the years 1786 and 1787. All of which points to the fact that at least one of the silversmiths remained in New York and kept the business open, advertising as such up to and including parts of 1787. The logical assumption would be that Van Voorhis stayed while Coley went to Vermont to work for Harmon.

In February of 1787, Van Voorhis and Coley petitioned the New York Legislature, but were unsuccessful in obtaining a coining contract.(10) Later, in June, they signed the noted agreement with the Machin people and Van Voorhis has been credited with being the contact person.(11) If Van Voorhis immediately went to work on the Machin project in Newburgh, only a small window of time would be open for him to have been working in Rupert, either coining copper or producing silverware in 1787. Tony Carlotto has made the astute observation that, "Van Voorhis was a very busy man being involved in the coinage of Rupert, Newburgh, and New York in the same time period.(11) Add to all this, the theory that Van Voorhis & Coley, at some point, cut Rahway, New Jersey dies for their old partner Albion Cox and indeed, you have some very

An interesting fact that turned up about Van Voorhis is that in October of 1786, he petitioned the Continental Congress for the job of "Master Coiner" at the newly proposed Federal Mint. He announces himself to the Congress as a Silversmith from the City of New York. In his proposal he states:

"Your Petitioner being well acquainted with the intrinsk (sic) value of gold and silver and also of coinage, begs your honorable body will be pleased to appoint him to be Master Coiner of said Mint...."(13)

This is quite an aspiring goal for someone who up to this time has been viewed mainly as a "Cashier" and an accomplice. Perhaps Van Voorhis' participation in the State coinage period needs reevaluation. The Notre Dame website makes the case that Coley may have had a larger role in Machin Mill coinage than was previously thought. The same might be said for Van Voorhis. After all, he is quite an accomplished craftsman with his work being displayed along side the likes of Paul Revere. (For an example of Van Voorhis' work, use the google search engine and search for "Trade axes and Tomahawk collectors association." See page one for a beautiful silver trade crown. For some reason I can't reproduce the exact URL, hence, the search.)

Getting back to the spoon, I could find absolutely no documentation, whatsoever, that Van Voorhis or Coley were working in the silver business in Rupert during the 1786-1787 period. Nor has Tony Carlotto uncovered advertisements or documents to this effect during his extensive research in the area.(14) In fact, I'm not even sure if Van Voorhis spent any time in Rupert during this period, despite the claims of several references on silverware. He seems too occupied with other activities to have been very involved. Of course, anything is possible, and just maybe Coley was casting some spoons on the side. It's a little hard to pinpoint exactly when Coley was in Vermont but the consensus of the silver references seems to be around March of 1787. It has even been stated that the C&V partnership expired in 1787 and that Van Voorhis was back in New York exchanging work with William Verstelle Fales.(15) In all

probability the Ebay spoon was made in New York, earlier in the Van Voorhis and Coley partnership in New York City.

There is little doubt the V&C monogram stands for the firm Van Voorhis & Coley. The Heritage Foundation Collection of Silver makes the notation, MARK: Initials of firm name in capitals, ampersand between, within a rectangle; device outside.(16) The Ebay spoon lacks the device outside the rectangle. This reference also claims V&C are working in Vermont, 1787. Louise Belden's book plates a V&R monogram which represents Van Voorhis and Richards. She says, the mark shown is on a down turned rounded and featheredge teaspoon and is related to the initial marks used by the partnership Van Voorhis & Coley. If the "R" on this spoon were replaced by a "C" it would be identical to the Ebay spoon. The Ensko book shows the mark of Van Voorhis and Coley as V&C but also includes the device outside of the rectangle. In another section of this book the mark of Coley and Van Voorhis is listed simply as V&C.

In closing, I'm not sure if any of the information that I gathered on Van Voorhis and Coley is new or relevant. It was certainly a lot of fun. Coley apparently liked it in Vermont and was elected sheriff.(17) He was later impeached for inflating his travel expenses but the charges were dismissed.(18) He then returned to New York City. Van Voorhis continued on in the silver trade in New York City in partnership with several others including his son. He was also a weigter at the Custom's House and advertised as a dentist. He died in 1824.(19) Owning a spoon that may have been cast or stamped by either of the two coiners is very exciting and will always have a place in my collection.

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## ***"Maryland Penny"***

By Norman G. Peters

I recently came across the copper illustrated her, and thought perhaps that the club members could shed some light on the unusual engraving in front of George III's face- "Maryland Penny".

I cannot come up with any idea of what it may mean. This item was purchased in 1926 from Gutag Bros. Of New York City for 15 cents. It came with a letter dated 1926-28 from prominent dealers of the era that expressed some real of the wall ideas.

Any help or thoughts would be most welcome.



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## ***Commentary and Review of the Stack's Andrew Hain Massachusetts Silver Auction***

by Alan V. Weinberg

I had just attended the Orlando FUN show and flew home to Los Angeles on Sunday night, turning around Monday night for a "red eye" from LAX to Newark Airport arriving 6 AM Tuesday morning, the day of the Hain auction. I had perhaps 2 hours of intermittent sleep on the plane so I arrived rather tired ( I was to be up 'til past midnight) . I took a bus to Port Authority Manhattan and then enjoyed a vigorous and cold walk from 42nd Street to 57th Street. New York City was fascinating - now I remembered why I missed it so.

I passed on the \$12.95 (!) pancakes at Lindy's, a Broadway chain restaurant, and elected to have coffee and a bagel for under \$2 at one of the many breakfast carts on the street. The Salisbury Hotel, next to Stack's , was kind enough to let me sit in their warm lobby until Stack's opened at 10.

I had eagerly anticipated the Hain Massachusetts silver ever since Mike Hodder had informed me months earlier of the impending sale at Stack's annual January Americana Sale. Mass silver has been a specialty of mine for many decades, since my high school days. Each coin, even the same variety, had its own "personality", its own die state and hand-cut planchet shape and weight.

They were silver and the first official coinage struck in America, still readily available and relatively modestly priced. Usually "raw" and unslabbed, a delight to examine under a glass. The American equivalent of British hammered coinage, so popular in England. In other words, a true collector's series with a long numismatic history and several competent references.

And Mike Hodder, Stack's chosen cataloguer for this auction, had created a masterpiece of a catalogue, significantly updating and expanding upon the classic references by Sydney P. Noe.

I was familiar with much of the Hain Mass silver, having been overbid on many of Andy's choice pieces that appeared in 1987 in the Norweb Sale. I was determined to acquire most if not all of them now that they were reappearing. "The best laid plans of mice and men..."

Lot viewing commenced at 10 AM and if you weren't there on time, you had a long wait. The chairs quickly filled. Uh! Oh!. I see the collectors have turned out. Some faces hadn't been seen in years. Stack's wisely had the lots broken down into 20 per box so there was no problem waiting around to view certain lots. Good idea! Everything flowed smoothly. I was in "hog heaven". It was apparent from the lack of chitchat and time wasting that the other viewers were also similarly entranced. God, the day went fast and 4:30 came around all too soon. I barely got to see all the lots of Mass silver and exonomia (in a second catalogue to be sold the same day) that I wanted to see. Mass silver isn't the type of coin you glance at obverse and reverse and place back in the box. You literally study it under a glass, perhaps hypnotized by all that history before you.

Then it was off to the Carnegie Deli nearby with several friends. We spotted Dick August and joined him. Great numismatic conversation! Unfortunately the food was less than satisfactory, my brisket sandwich fatty and greasy and expensive at \$12 without a side dish! I gave away half my sandwich. In LA or Beverly Hills at the best deli, a better sandwich with cole slaw or potato salad was \$8. But shared a massive piece of chocolate cake with Wynn Carner. We're baaaad boys.

Back to the The Parker Meridien Hotel for the auction. I remember clearly the Stack's auctions used to be at the Park Sheraton. Am I showing my age?

Everyone was there. There was Billy Anton - I've known him so long I still call him "Billy". Sitting up front near Henry Dittmer. Marv Browder from Texas, long gone from the numismatic scene, resurfaced for this event. Don Partrick sitting way up front, back to

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the podium, facing the audience to take down extensive bidder notes. Dick August, Don Kagin, Steve Hayden, Jim Skalbe in the middle. I carefully selected my chair side-center so I could view the bidding in the front and the back. Tony Terranova, Stu Levine, Jon Hansen, Tom Rinaldo, Bob Rhue, John Gervasoni sitting way in back. The room literally was standing room only. Every seat was taken and the back and side aisles were crowded with standees.

Curious for such an esoteric series as Mass silver. It was the cataloguing and the interest in early American history that brought out this crowd. The bidding commenced.

The first three lots, all New England shillings of mediocre quality, sold for \$150,000, \$140,000 and \$105,000 plus the 15% buyers fee. Lot 2 selling to noted autograph dealer Ken Rendell in room center. Uh oh, do these outrageous prices portend what is going to happen? 50% higher than the highest pre-sale expectations, in my opinion. Yup! The Willow Tree shillings were just as crazy - \$120,000, \$180,000, \$70,000, \$150,000 \$60,000 hammer, some of them not so attractive. Relative to prior auctions, how did they do? Well, lot 9 at \$150,000 previously auctioned for \$40,000 in 1987, lot 3 at \$105,000 at \$12,000 in 1987, lot 5 at \$180,000 at \$48,000 in 1987. Buyers fees not included!

The Oak and Pine Tree coinage sold just as dramatically with vigorous audience participation , almost no lots going to the book. And the buying was broadly based, not just the usual 3 or 4 bidders dominating the action. Tony, Jon and Bob Rhue were the biggest buyers, representing themselves and clients but there were easily a dozen other buyers quite active. Condition coins brought the really big money but rare varieties in decent shape attracted a lot of bidding. A Noe 24 OT III at \$19,000 hammer, a Noe 24.5 at \$16,000.

But it was the choice AU and Unc Oaks and Pines that really made me swallow hard. An AU Noe 14 OT shilling, ex Norweb '87 at \$17,000 for \$34,000 hammer. An AU-Unc Noe 4 PT shilling, ex



Norweb '87 at \$18,000 for \$40,000. An Unc Noe 7 PT XII , ex Norweb '87 at \$24,000 hammering for \$42,500. A splendid Unc. Noe 11 PT XII, ex Chas. Bushnell and Oechsner '88 at \$16,500 (total) hammering at \$42,000.

I had been Andy Hain's immediate underbidder on quite a number of AU and Unc Oaks and Pines in the 1987 Norweb Sale, walking out of that auction room empty-handed and dejected. I recall stopping by Larry Stack (who personally favors Mass silver and British hammered coinage) at the time, sitting in the back row by the auction room exit. He commented to me at the time that I shouldn't feel so bad, the prices were "crazy". That made me feel a little better.

Well, at this Hain sale, despite persistent bidding on my part to acquire those "lost" Norweb pieces, I went home with only lot 31, an "EF" Noe 9 OT XII which was really mint state and undergraded (in my and others' opinion). Virtually shut out again! This time Larry Stack himself startled at the auction results. Perhaps at a loss for explanation and recalling his observation to me after the Norweb Mass silver sold in 1987, opined "I guess the answer is you have to pay the price when the opportunity presents itself " - in other words, what I've heard many times in recent years - that there's an "opportunity cost". This is a difficult concept for an "oldtime" collector to grasp who well remembers when such "opportunities" were abundant.

Tony Terranova called me a few days later to obtain information on who bought what as he knew I'd extensively annotated my catalogue with starting/closing bids, buyers and underbidders, comments on condition and floor action (I can relive the auction experience years later by referring back to the catalogue). I asked him why prices were so darn high on the Mass silver almost across the board. He said "well, I guess Massachusetts silver has gained parity with other U.S. coins now". I guess he's right.

So what was a relatively "sleepy" and esoteric field of American numismatics has awakened with a roar. Sadly, no doubt many of

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these Hain silver pieces, until now all "raw", will end up in slabs with exaggerated grades for certainly the slabbing companies do not know how to grade Massachusetts colonial silver from the slabbed pieces I've examined.

I'm sure glad I formed the bulk of my Mass silver collection years ago. And I sure know who I want to catalogue and auction my collection when the time comes. There's no doubt - the superb cataloguing did it. I'm reliably informed Andy Hain was ecstatic about the results. For me personally, it was a numismatic experience the likes of which there have been few equals in memory - Garrett, Norweb, Picker, Taylor, Roper, a few others. This is what the hobby is all about.



## **Unclassified Ads**

Ed Sarrafian



For sale: Spanish Colonials

1718 Spain 1 Real(1/2 pistareen) XF \$100.00

1738 Spain 1 Real(1/2 pistareen) XF \$100.00

1740 Spain 1 Real(1/2 pistareen) XF \$100.00

1733 Spain 1/2 Real (1/4 pistareen) VF \$50.00

1751 Spain 1 Real(1/2 pistareen) VF+ \$65.00

Have others, please inquire.



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1787 Verm. Ry. 14 MBR F "nice"  
1788 Verm. Ry. 25 MBR VF uniformly porous but not distracting  
1776 Jan 1 issue Delaware 10s currency AU-UNC (some would call it UNC)

I will consider trades

LEO SHANE E Mail: [Leo.J.Shane@honeywell.com](mailto:Leo.J.Shane@honeywell.com)



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David Bowers

□

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Harrell H. Cherry



Barry Tayman and I, under a grant from the ANS, are working on a monograph on Canadian Blacksmith tokens. We are seeking information from collectors, especially about the rarer pieces. I can be contacted at my home address or through my web site.

George Fuld, Sc.D.



[Fuld1@home.com](mailto:Fuld1@home.com)



Imitation halfpence coppers (Redbook group I, II and III) in VF to EF condition. All dates wanted.

Please call Min at [REDACTED], or E-mail at Unifilis @aol.com



Wanted, cull to mid-grade:

Virginia halfpennies

Colonial and Continental currency

Also wanted: biographical information on the lesser known signers of Continental and colonial currency. Will pay for referenced information I don't have.

*Spring, 2002*

David Consolvo

**historiccoins@firstva.com**

I am currently researching Massachusetts Bay Colony silver coinage. Any information or new thoughts which are not addressed in the basics (Noe, Crosby, Breen, Durst, etc.) would be appreciated. Intermediary die states, contemporary counterfeits, high quality fabrications, witch pieces, etc. Correspondence desired. Also buying low grade, clipped, holed, mutilated, witch pieces. Thank you.

## Geoffrey Stevens

Pattinbpt@.mediaone.net

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Collector wishes to purchase for top dollar: 1793 Liberty Cap cent, AG to F; Immune(Immunis) Columbia; Chalmers shilling; Auctori Plebis; Oak Tree Shilling; Rhode Island Ship Medal; Pitt token. These coins will be cherished. Thank you. Frank Vivalo- [REDACTED]

Richard August, [REDACTED]  
[REDACTED]

For Sale: Oak Tree Sixpence, Noe 20, F-VF \$3,100; Pine Tree shilling, Noe 17, VF \$2,700; Good Samaritan shilling, silver UNC \$2,200; Mass. 1787 cent 2bE, VF \$650, 4D F-VF \$175; 1788 half cent, 1B F-VF \$235; NJ 11H F \$3,800, 16J VF \$2,500, 17J VF-XF \$1,600, 56n AXF \$750; 85 Conn. 6.3g.1 VF-XF \$500, 87 4L VF-XF \$550, 25b F \$135, 33.27r.4 XF \$2,400, 33.36T.2 F-VF \$110, 88 12.1F.1 VF-XF \$900. Vermont R2 AXF full \$7,00, R9 F-VF \$875, R14 VF-XF \$850, R22 late die VF \$850. Machin's 3-71B F-VF \$575, 8-74A VF \$850, 12-78B VF-XF \$1,600, 17-87B VF-XF \$475. Fugio 3D F-VF \$475, 9P XF \$775, 10T VF-XF \$2,300, 12S VF \$1,300, 13X UNC \$2,200, 18U AXF \$475. French 1690 5 sol XF \$2,850, 1712D 30 sol XF \$350, 1713AA 15 sol XF \$750, 1720 A 20 sol XF \$500.

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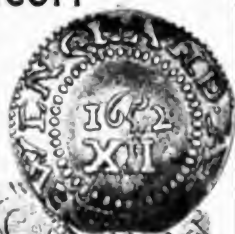
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